

Frequently Asked Questions

September 1, 2015

Dear Sela Families:

Your voices have been heard! Below, please find questions to the most frequently asked questions we received from the first week of the 2015-2016 school year:

- **How many children are there per teacher in Pre-K3?**

There is a 1:8 ratio in the Preschool (Pre-K3) classrooms, which means that there must be 1 adult for every 8 children in the class. If there are 16 children in a class, there will be at least 2 adults at all times. At all times, there will be at least 1 instructional staff member for every 8 children. **Ms. Revital, Ms. Lital and Ms. Erica** are the teachers for the Preschool classes and **Ms. Orit** and **Ms. Edna** are their instructional assistants. During the busiest times of the day, such as pick up and drop off, additional staff members will be with students. Therefore, you can expect at least 3 adults in the preschool classes during these times.

- **Do the Hebrew teachers ever use English in class?**

At the very beginning of the school year, there may be times when the teacher needs to speak to new students in English for safety reasons. The safety of our students is our number one priority. By the end of September, once the students have gotten the hang of their new routines, you can expect that all Hebrew teachers will only speak the Hebrew language to your children.

- **I keep hearing about the school renovations. What was changed?**

We are so excited about our brand new Pre-K3 classroom space. Our main office was totally transformed into a Preschool wonderland where our amazing three-year olds will flourish. This space will get even nicer as your children's beautiful artwork begin to surface on the walls. Please bring family pictures to personalize the preschool space and keep our young children from getting homesick.

- **What is the process for Drop-off and Pick-up?**

During morning drop-off, our Preschool children enter through the main door on Chillum Place, where our Sela staff members await their arrival in order to escort them into their classrooms. Our Pre-K4 through Grade 2 students enter through the side door entrance on First Place. Sela staff members meet our students at their vehicles in order to walk them into the building, which allows drop-off to run smoothly. Children in Kindergarten through Grade 2 enter the gym for morning assembly. Our students are dismissed at 3:30 pm each day at the same respective drop-off area (unless they are in our extended learning program). Anyone who needs to pick up a child (in place of their parent/guardian) will need to show an ID in order to pick up the child (and be listed as an emergency contact on the student's registration form).

- **Why is this a nut-free facility?**

This school year, we had several parents/guardians inform us that our students in several classes are severely allergic to a variety of nuts. In order to protect the health, safety, and well-being of all students, we are asking all parents to refrain from sending any foods that contain nuts. We know that this may mean adjusting meals for your children, and we really appreciate your support with helping us to be a “nut-free” school.

- **How does Sela teach Hebrew and will my children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade still have at least 50% of their instructional time in Hebrew in the new model?**

Hebrew language is integrated throughout the day at Sela. School begins each morning with a whole school assembly. Students then move to their classrooms where they take part in Hebrew Morning meetings, followed by breakfast where students work with the Hebrew staff to request the food in Hebrew. Every day the children have formal Hebrew acquisition from 1 hour to 1 hour and 40 minutes, depending on the day. Sela's new STEM program is conducted partly in Hebrew, so that children have the opportunity to diversify their vocabulary and augment their proficiency. Our Art program, which the children have every other day, is also in Hebrew. Finally, for those children who stay into the extended day, there are additional opportunities to reinforce their Hebrew learning in a fun, interactive, non-formal way. In Kindergarten (please see schedule below), students who are performing on or above grade-level in mathematics (in English) will have the opportunity to have an additional 30 minutes of Hebrew each day (in small groups). Our new Hebrew Immersion model/schedule will be fully explained during our Back-to-School night on Thursday, September 17th, which will take place from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Kindergarten Schedule

TIME	A-Day Schedule	B-Day Schedule
8:15 am – 8:25 am	Hebrew Assembly	Hebrew Assembly
8:25 am – 8:45 am	Hebrew Breakfast	Hebrew Breakfast
8:45 am – 9:05 am	Hebrew Morning Meeting	English Morning Meeting
9:05 am – 10:05 am	Hebrew Language Acquisition	English/Language Arts (ELA)
10:05 am – 11:15 am	English Morning Meeting English/Language Arts (ELA)	Hebrew Morning Meeting and Hebrew Language Acquisition
11:15 am – 11:45 am	Recess	Recess
11:45 am – 12:30 pm	Specials (Hebrew Art/PE)	Specials (Hebrew Art/PE)
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Hebrew Math OR Math Intervention (English)	Hebrew Math OR Math Intervention (English)
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Math	Math
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	STEM/Science/S.S. (Heb./Eng.) (Hebrew/English)	STEM/Science/S.S. (Heb./Eng.) (Hebrew/English)
3:30 pm	Dismissal	Dismissal

- **What are the offerings in Sela's extending learning program?**

Our extended learning program for the time being has Hebrew twice a week, and we hope to expand it to more days. We are also exploring adding music, dance, robotics, chess, and yoga (which was very popular last school year). We will keep you informed of any updates. If you have any questions about our extended learning program, please contact Ms. Zaccheus at szaccheus@selapcs.org and/or Mr. Sean Flora at sflora@selapcs.org.

- **What is the proficiency approach?**

Hebrew is taught through a *proficiency-based approach*, which is considered the gold standard in foreign language instruction in the USA and around the world. The proficiency approach is used in teaching a foreign language that aims to assist learners in developing their ability to perform in the learned language in all four skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Hebrew instruction happens in a designated Hebrew class taught by two or three Hebrew instructors. Students are immersed in Hebrew right from the beginning in a classroom environment where only Hebrew is spoken. Hebrew is further immersed in the school during community times – breakfast, lunch, recess – where Hebrew teachers support those gathering times and communication is conducted by the Hebrew teachers solely in Hebrew. Through this model, children are able to acquire the language by actively being engaged in meaningful interactions in the language, thus developing their speaking and comprehension skills in a highly effective way. As students advance through the grade levels, speaking and listening skills continue to be developed and reading and writing are introduced, developed and strengthened. Important to the acquisition of the Hebrew language is the study of the attendant history and culture of that language. The study of Hebrew and the exploration of world Hebrew-speaking communities provide a link among many of the subjects in the school's curriculum (in particular social studies and the arts). This allows for the examination and exploration of Hebrew culture and history in the context of both American and world histories, while illustrating the interconnectedness of our global world today. We believe this unique aspect of our school better prepares our students to be active participants in the global community of today and tomorrow.

- **When is back to school night?**

Back to School night is on September 17, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

- **Will Sela provide transportation this school year?**

We need at least 15 families to sign up in order to provide shuttle service. Currently, we do not have at least 15 registered families and/or families interested. An alternative (in the meantime) can be using the DC Metrorail. Students who attend DC charter schools can enroll in the Kids Ride Free program, which will allow them to ride free on the Metrorail and bus using their DC One Cards. Families may also work together to create carpools.

- **Who is my child's teacher?**

Below, please find a staff roster. You should have received an email and/or phone call directly from your child's teacher(s) by now. If you have not, please let me know ASAP. Next week, you will also be receiving information from your teacher about your child's class's website(s).

Sela's SY2015-2016 Staff Roster

Position	Name	Email Address
Head of School	Natalie Smith, Ph.D.	narthurs@selapcs.org
Director of Curriculum & Instruction	Jenifer Moore	jmoore@selapcs.org
Director of Operations	Sean Flora	sflora@selapcs.org
Special Education Teacher/Coordinator	Tiffany Reed	treed@selapcs.org
Director of Extended Learning	Sola Zaccheus	szaccheus@selapcs.org
Office & Enrollment Manager	LaTasha Williams	twilliams@selapcs.org
Facilities Manager	Antonio Queen, Sr.	aqueen@selapcs.org
Family-School Advocate	Shona Maher	smaher@selapcs.org
Pre-K3 Hebrew Speaking	Lital Burr	lburr@selapcs.org
Pre-K3 Hebrew Speaking	Revital Schwartz	rschwartz@selapcs.org
Pre-K4 Hebrew Speaking	Ronit Blivis	rblivis@selapcs.org
Pre-K English Speaking	Erica Madison	emadison@selapcs.org
K-2 Hebrew Speaking – Lead	Moriah Yehuda	myehuda@selapcs.org
K-2 Hebrew Speaking	Hagit Leibowitz	hleibowitz@selapcs.org
K-2 Hebrew Speaking	Aliza Sandalon	asandalon@selapcs.org
Kindergarten (English) Teacher	Maya Baum	mbaum@selapcs.org
Kindergarten (English) Teacher	Anastasia Mazza	amazza@selapcs.org
Grade 1 (English) Teacher	Stephanie Goldberg	sgoldberg@selapcs.org
Grade 1 (English) Teacher	Robin Berger	rberger@selapcs.org
Grade 2 (English) Teacher	Anne Price	aprice@selapcs.org
Pre-K3 Hebrew Speaking IA	Orit Janco Golan	ojgolan@selapcs.org
Pre-K3 Hebrew Speaking IA	Edna Gordon	egordon@selapcs.org
Pre-K4 Hebrew Speaking IA	Benjamin Beraha	bberaha@selapcs.org
Kindergarten (English) IA	Conor Murphy	cmurphy@selapcs.org
Kindergarten (English) IA	Franque Alexander	falexander@selapcs.org
Art Teacher	Maya Faiman	mfaiman@selapcs.org
One-on-One Dedicated Aide	Miya Upshur-Williams	mupshurwilliams@selapcs.org
PE Teacher, Food Handler, Before Care Personnel	Tajuana Queen	tqueen@selapcs.org
STEM Specialist	Holly Seibold	hseibold@selapcs.org
DBH Counselor	Kory Bradley	kory.bradley@dc.gov

Coming soon... Information and pictures will be shared via your child's class website so that you can see all the great things happening with your child in class!

We are looking forward to having an amazing school year at Sela!!! Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,



Dr. Natalie Smith (Arthurs)